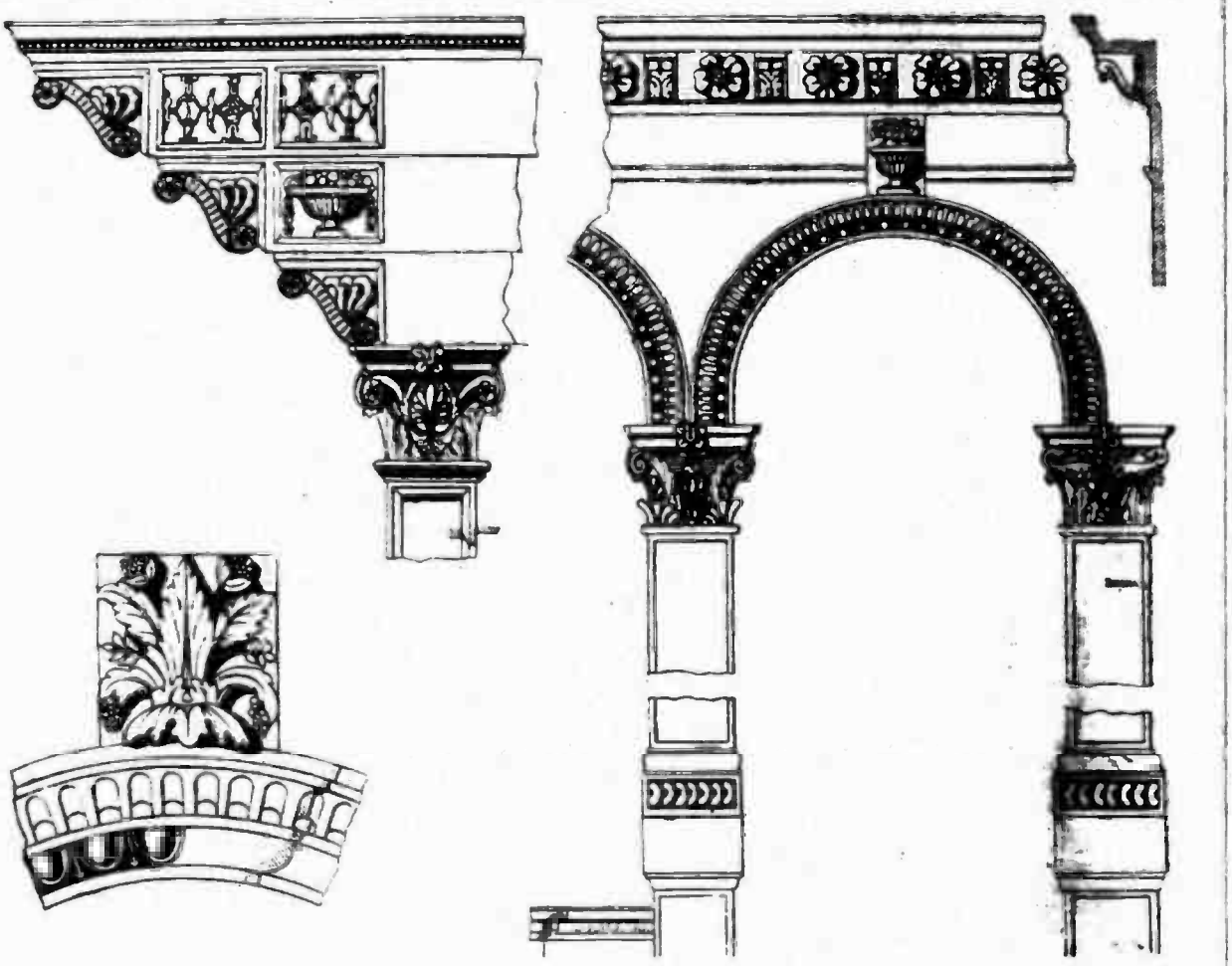
DETAILS OF CASA VISETTI, VENICE.



CASA VISETTI, VENICE.

(SIXTEENTH CENTURY.)

THIS richly decorated little *palace* (for it is so called at Venice) is situated near the Ponte di S. Antonio. The front given in our illustration faces the narrow canal over which the bridge passes. The two lowermost stories are executed in white marble, and the extreme richness of these is strongly contrasted with the upper story, which is totally devoid of beauty. The base is extremely beautiful, like many of the palaces at Venice—this being the part that most frequently catches the eye of the observer as he glides by in his gondola.

It may be as well to add that this is a true representation of the palace as it now is: and as it has been very recently under repair, those who visited it some years ago will probably discover differences. J. T. W.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Baden Antiquarian Society.—This body has, for some time past, much exerted itself, and elucidated many monuments of the country. The four numbers of its transactions give illustrated descriptions of the monuments at Lichtenthal, Sinsheim, and of the Roman baths at Baden; and the society have also exerted themselves for the preservation of monuments of architecture, plastic, and paintings. The old church of Lautenbach has been restored, and the sculptures of the convent-church, destroyed by lightning, raised from the mass of ruins which hid them. The carved stalls of the choir of the hospital-church at Baden were restored by this society, as well as other sculptures from the Cathedral of Constance, and the Carolingian Munster at Reichenau, hitherto hardly known by name. At Stühlingen a large mosaic pavement has been brought to light, and an accurate survey of the Giant's Tower (*Riesenthurm*) at Steinsberg will lead to a decision, whether this monument be Roman or mediæval. At Hochausen-on-the-Necker a splendid altar-picture has been discovered, and the enigmatic sculpture examined, which public tradition considers as the sepulchral figure of Ste. Notburg, daughter of the Austrasian king Dagobert. The bust is in the style of Merovingian statues, and the long garment very original.

Vienna.—The Secretary of Public Instruction, M. de Thun, has ordered that an especial department of arts should be constituted within the *ressort* of his ministry, at the head of which is to be placed his brother, M. Franz de Thun, whose art-activity at Prague has been praiseworthy. The committee of the Academy of Arts is quite absorbed in remodelling its rules and regulations, and the preparatory and elementary schools have been already opened under teachers like Rahl, Geiger, &c. M. Bruck, Minister of Public Works, has proposed and obtained funds for the establishment of a *Commission des Monuments*. The great monumental riches of Austria and the other provinces, have become most apparent by the fine exhibition of the architect M. L. Ernst, being his own sketches and pictures of the fine templar Choir of Schöngrabern, the rock-castle of Carlstein, the residence of Charles IV. German emperor, &c.

Paris Architectural Prizes.—The section of Architecture of the French Academy of Fine Arts have, at their late meeting, decided on the claims of pupils for competing for the great architectural prize of the Roman scholarship, which procures for the successful candidate the assistance of Government for a two years' study in the Italian capital. The following young artists have obtained the majority of votes:—Messrs. Aumont, Chaplain, Daumet, A. Dist, Deuillard, Dinain, Hue, and Triquet.

Cologne Cathedral.—Here, late restorations begin to require already to be restored. Herr Dombaumeister Zwirner states, that if the temporary roof, and the huge scaffolding connected therewith, be not replaced within three years by final structures, these will have to be renewed. For the completion of this part of the cathedral, he requires 200,000 thalers within three years. Besides the artists engaged in the undertaking, these works possess an especial stone-cutters' lodge (*Steinmetzhütte*), whose pupils range over many parts of Europe, and employ 400 labourers.

An Admonition.—One of the writers on the Paris improvements, which hitherto have been mostly demolition, exclaims, "There is demolition going on around the Hotel-de-Ville, at the Quai des Ormes, at the great halls, on the Place du Palais Royal. In architecture, law, institutions of all kind, it is ever and everywhere but overthrow and demolition. Is it not time to say to ourselves, 'We have enough destroyed,—to work now: let us *construct* once more!'"

COCKERMOUTH CHURCH.—The result of the poll taken at the vestry meeting held to consider the propriety of accepting or rejecting Mr. Clarke's plan for the rebuilding of Cockermouth Church, has terminated adversely to that gentleman; the vote on the meeting by a show of hands having been reversed, on a scrutiny, and decided in favour of Mr. Hay's plan by a majority of forty-five.

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